



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Anita Gallagher, Public Affairs and Communications, Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee; Jackie Flowers, Director of Public Utilities
SUBJECT: Transportation Electrification
DATE: December 6, 2018

SUMMARY:

General Government departments and Tacoma Power have several initiatives in progress to foster transportation electrification. The Electric Vehicle Coordinating Committee has developed recommendations that the City of Tacoma can take to further this goal. In this presentation, staff will provide an overview of progress to date, planned initiatives, and conclude with a preview of strategies for future policy considerations.

BACKGROUND:

On May 22, 2018, the City Council passed Resolution 40016 expressing support for initiatives that foster better conditions for electric vehicle adoption. The transportation sector accounts for 71% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the city of Tacoma, largely due to single-occupancy vehicles. Tacoma Power offers low-cost, carbon-free energy, and electric vehicles represent an emerging market opportunity for increased power sales. Transportation electrification is aligned with the Tacoma 2025 strategic goal of stewardship of the natural and built environment, as well as the City's Environmental Action Plan, which includes a goal to have 2,000 electric vehicles registered in Tacoma by the year 2020.

ISSUE:

Tacoma Power has several initiatives in progress to foster transportation electrification, including the DC Fast Charging Pilot Rate recently approved by the City Council, a residential charging study, and electric vanpools for employee commutes, among others. General Government departments have worked with Tacoma Power this year on an electric car discount program and hosted several EV 101 educational workshops. There have also been three "EV Ride & Drive" events, which were well-attended.

While the number of electric vehicles registered in Tacoma has grown significantly over the course of the past few years, there are various conditions that may be barriers to electric vehicle adoption. While the City does not have direct control over consumer vehicle purchases, there are strategies and action steps that could foster better conditions for future electric vehicle adoption in Tacoma. Some potential options could include increasing the availability of public charging, finding solutions to the "garage orphan" issue where property owners do not have access of off-street parking to charge an electric vehicle, streamlining the City's Land Use and Building Codes related to electric vehicle infrastructure requirements, and legislative advocacy for public utilities' to have authority to directly incentivize electric vehicle equipment. These topics will be mentioned at a high level for future Committee consideration.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.